



A 'Forever' Home

A couple puts down roots in Redmont Park.



After 33 years of marriage, Nancy and Buck Brock decided they were through with moving. So when they purchased their Redmont Park home two years ago, they wanted it to be perfect, for themselves and their guests.

"We've moved around so much. We've probably lived in 10 houses," says Nancy. "We were really looking for our forever home."

Though the house on Sterling Road was in near-perfect condition, the couple wanted it to reflect their lifestyle. They brought in architects Joel and Melissa Williams of Williams Partnership for a complete renovation. Then Nancy, an interior decorator, added her unique style along with bits and pieces the couple had collected over the years to infuse the two-story house with the Brocks' personality. The resulting décor makes the home feel like a quaint bed and breakfast in the middle of Birmingham.

"I don't know what you would call my style. I just like a more historic look," she says. "We do entertain a lot, and we're both home bodies. I wanted this home to be warm and inviting. I don't know how to say it. I just love a beautiful home."

The front door opens to the great room, which has 16.5-foot arched ceilings with oak beams that were added throughout the main level during the renovation. Exotic animals from Buck's hunting trips to Africa are mounted on the walls, giving the room a masculine feel. The walls are neutral, but Nancy brings in punches of blues, browns and gold with the furniture and artwork.

Buck's adjoining study is wood paneled, keeping with the masculine atmosphere. Nancy had the bathroom wallpapered with a pattern of historic papers.

By Laura McAlister
Photos by Miller Mobley

DWELLING



Blues and browns color most of the house, with the dining room painted a soothing shade of blue. One dining room wall is upholstered in rich, red velvet. On the opposite wall, a bench covered in the same fabric gives the room an extra pop of color. “I really think that wall is one of my favorites in the house,” Nancy says. Her other favorite is actually the wood paneled dining room ceiling, which Tomasz Wrzesien of Urban Standard painted with a mural of hops, then pickled to give it a weathered look.

Paint colors aren’t the home’s only unifier. Joel and Melissa Williams also added custom cabinets throughout. To ensure the couple had the entertaining spaces they needed, the architects expanded one butler’s pantry and rearranged the kitchen to improve traffic flow. The room now opens up to the den, which is where the Brocks spend most their time.

In that room, the Williamses redid the fireplace and added custom shelves, the backs of which are lined with leather. Pocket doors above the fireplace conceal the television. A screened-in porch and a boxwood garden give the Brocks the additional outdoor entertaining space they craved.

The home’s private spaces echo the details that tie together its public rooms. Custom cabinets and a butler’s pantry are also found in the Brocks’ bedroom. Nancy wanted this room to be a quiet retreat. The walls are upholstered in burlap, contrasting with white bedding and a red quilt that adds a splash of color.

On the home’s lower level, another great room doubles as Nancy’s office. There, they added a fireplace with sea green tiles and more book shelves to display Nancy’s collectables. A small wine cellar includes a brick floor that was laid to match the brick sidewalks in nearby English Village.

Two guests rooms are down the hall. One has twin beds with subtle khaki and red bedding. Nancy has dubbed the other her blue room, for obvious reasons.

The narrow room is blue throughout. The shelves are a quiet blue, and the wallpaper is blue floral, as is the bedding. Though it may sound overwhelming, Nancy says her guests agree that it’s one of the most soothing rooms in the house. “People just find their way down here and want to stay,” she says. If the bedrooms aren’t enough to keep guests comfortable, a hallway kitchenette ensures coffee and snacks are just a few steps away.

Nancy wanted a place where her guests would be comfortable and want to stay. After two years worth of renovations and three decades of moving around, the Brocks have finally found a home where they, too, want to remain. ●

“I don’t know what you would call my style. I just like a more historic look.”
—Homeowner Nancy Brock



RESOURCES

Architects: Joel and Melissa Williams, Williams Partnership

Contractor: Hufham Farris

Carpets: Isis and Sons Carpets

Oriental carpets: Olde World Acquisitions

Paint colors: Master bedroom, Palace White 956; den, kitchen and pantry: Papaya 957; Nancy's office: Bennington Gray HC 82; dining room: Mountain Laurel AC 20; living room Summerdale Gold HC 17; all from Benjamin Moore

Fireplace stone: Cotswold Stone

Living room sofa fabric: Lee Jofa Bartholomew, Velvet Mink

Living room bench fabric:

Jane Shelton Fabrics

Kitchen cabinets: Robert Shirley Cabinets LLC

Dining room table: William Word Antiques, Atlanta

Hand-painted dining room ceiling: Tomasz Wrzesien

Study sofa and chair: Peck and Hills Antiques

Study library table: Les Trois Marches

Study panel staining and aging: Charles Wade

Sunroom wallpaper: Brunschwig and Fils



"A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams." -unknown

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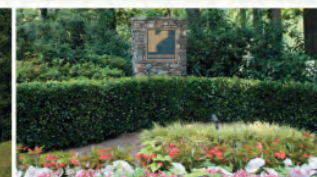
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